9

幽麗塔

乃木坂太郎

～黒岩涙香「幽霊塔」より～

スペリオール
BIG COMICS

幽麗塔

9

現実の塔

乃木坂太郎

小学館
BC6696

ISBN978-4-09-186696-7

C9979 ¥600E

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雑誌 45706-96　　小学館

I want
to tell Tetsuo...

Amano defeated
"Shibanmushi" and found
the treasure.

Tetsuo on the other hand, plans
to undergo a brain transplant
surgery and switch bodies with
Marube to become a man.
However Amano needs to tell
Tetsuo his feelings first.
Tetsuo in a dress is too
dazzling for him to look at.

Yet he still gathers the
courage to confess.

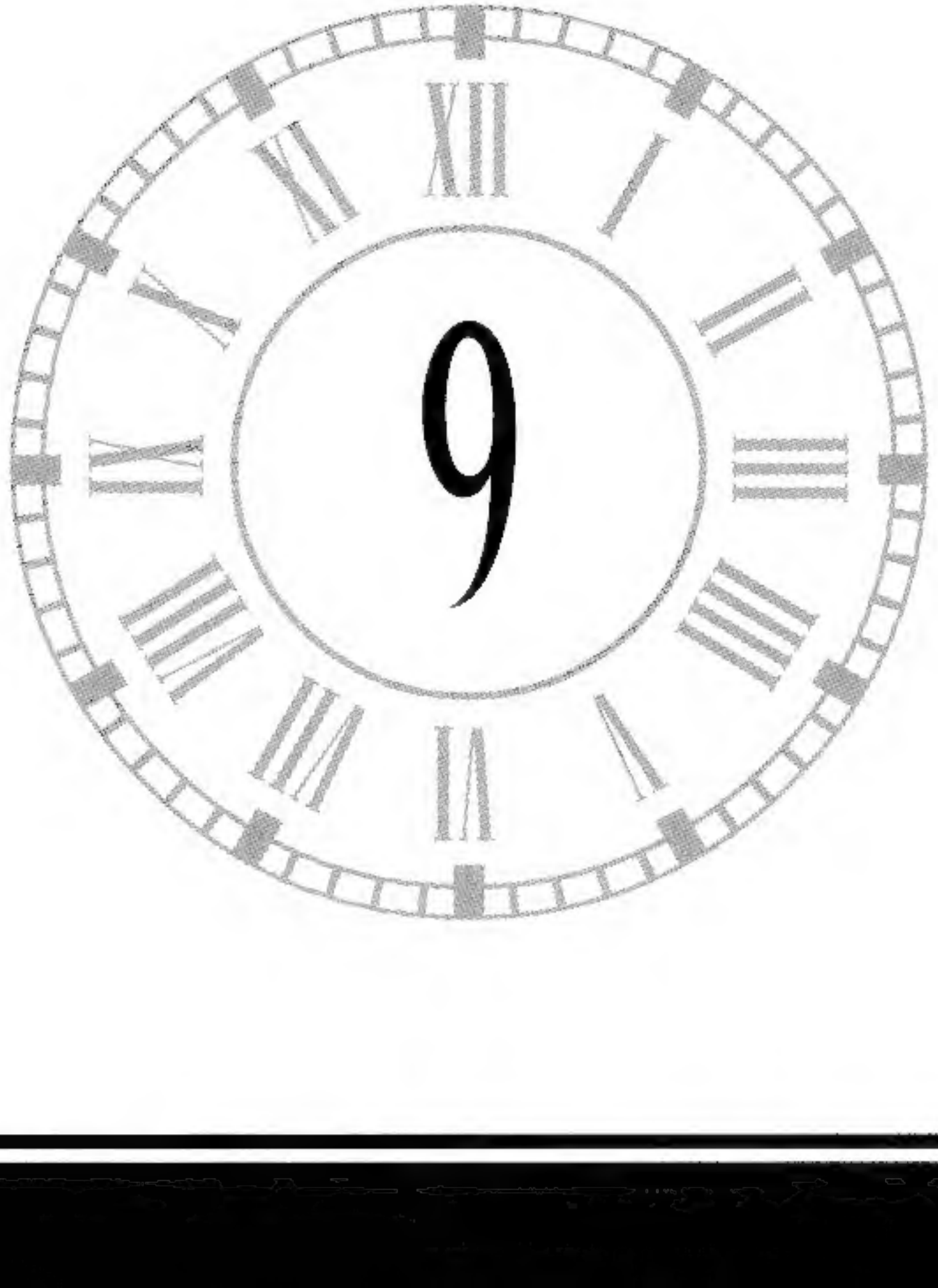
The Ghost Tower

幽霊塔

Yuu Rei Tou

Nogizaka Tarou

BIG COMIC SUPERIOR



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Chapter 71: Myself

AS SOMETHING POSITIVE.

PLEASE, THINK OF THE BRAIN TRANSPLANT

I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM.

I'M DONE EATING.

FUTEWORLD SCANS

A FEW THINGS FINALLY MAKE SENSE.

NOW THAT I KNOW YOU WANT TO BECOME A WOMAN,

I'M SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.

YOUR DELICATE SENSE OF BEAUTY,

LIKE YOUR LONG HAIR,

IT ALL SHOWED IN YOUR APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOR, YET I NEVER NOTICED.

YOUR STRONG OPPOSITION TO AGING.

THE FACT THAT YOU NEVER LAID YOUR HANDS ON SATOKO...

YOUR INTEREST IN MAIDENHOOD.

IF...

.....

BUT UNLIKE YOU, I CAN ALSO ENJOY BEING A MAN.

THAT'S WHERE WE DIFFER.

THERE WAS NO HELPING IT.

4

THAT OFFER ALSO EXTENDS TO EXAMINING THE SHAPE AND SIZE OF MY ERECT PENIS.

IT'S PROBABLY DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO ASK, SO I'M GOING TO SAY IT STRAIGHT OUT,

SINCE YOU'RE PROBABLY INTERESTED IN IT.

I'LL SHOW YOU ALL OF IT.

YOU'RE INTERESTED IN MY BODY AND WANT TO CHECK IT OUT, JUST ASK ME ANYTIME.

TETSUO ...

...EVEN ME.

...EVERY-ONE IS.

ARE ONE HARDCORE PERVERT.

...YOU...

I NEVER ONCE THOUGHT OF ANYONE AS PERVERTED.

DON'T YOU THINK SO?

THERE ARE NO PERVERTS.

EVERYONE DIFFERS FROM THE REST IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

б

IN MARUBE'S BODY.

I SHOULD EMBRACE MYSELF,

AND HAVE SEX TOGETHER.

LET'S BE REBORN AS OUR TRUE SELVES,

WILL BE MY OWN.

MY CHAS-TITY...

WHO LOVED THIS FEMALE BODY OF MINE BY DOING THAT.

I WONDER IF THIS WOULD COUNT AS REMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE MEN,

WILL BELONG TO NO ONE...

SINCE MY VIRGINITY

FOR A MAN'S BODY.

HOW I'VE YEARNED,

THE FIRST TIME I'D SEEN A MAN'S BODY UP CLOSE.

WAS WHEN I PULLED OFF TAICHI'S PANTS AT THE CLOCK TOWER.

I ACTED CALMLY ON THE OUTSIDE.

BUT ON THE INSIDE I WAS VERY EXCITED.

I WAS OVERWHELMED BY A STRONG FEELING OF INFERIORITY.

CURIOSITY, ENVY, JEALOUSY...

HOW-EVER.

GUTSMWORLD SCANS

JUST WHO DO I WANT TO BECOME?

WHAT

BUT TO THROW AWAY THIS ME...

BECAUSE I ALWAYS WANTED TO BECOME THE REAL ME, I SHOULD'VE WANTED TO BECOME A MAN.

PLEASE TELL ME.

UGH

AND WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

.....

.....

...NO, I WAS UP ALL NIGHT THINKING. THE TRUTH WAS TOO SHOCKING...

DID YOU GET ANY SLEEP, YAGOBEE-SAN?

...GOOD MORNING

IS IT MORNING?

I WANT TO PROVE THAT A REAL COP PROTECTS PEOPLE.

EVEN IF THERE WAS A COP WHO MURDERED PEOPLE,

I DECIDED TO STICK WITH YOU,

EVEN IF IT MEANS OPPOSING PROSECUTOR MARUBE.

THAT'S HOW YAMASHINA WAS TILL THE END, RIGHT?

...YEAH.

I CAN SEE THE TOP OF A BUILDING OVER THERE.

I DIDN'T NOTICE IT IN THE DARK BUT,

UM...

IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE TOWER OF LONDON.

A TOWER

NO!

LOOK OVER THERE!

.....

THERE'S A TRUCK GOING INSIDE.

MARUBE'S HERE.

THE TOWER OF LONDON,

YOU MEAN THE ONE WHERE THEY EXECUTED PEOPLE?

WE FOUND IT.

I WONDER IF WE CAN SNEAK IN.

IT'S PROBABLY CARRYING FOOD SUPPLIES OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

LET'S GO.

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK FIRST

IF WE HIDE IN THOSE BOXES WE SHOULD GET CARRIED IN.

THIS LOOKS LIKE A CASKET.

GUTTERWORLD SCANS

WE STILL HAVE MORE TO GO, SO HURRY

...!!

SLAM

.....

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

MUST'VE BEEN A FATASS

THIS ONE SURE IS HEAVY

LOOKS LIKE IT WENT WELL

I'M NEXT!

KYAA AAA!!

HII II

WHAT'S WRONG?

INTRUDERS?

WHAT'S WRONG?

.....

THE POLICE OFFICER THAT SAVED ME IN THE MAZE UNDER THE MANSION!!

IT'S YOU!!

YOU'RE MASUDA'S DAUGHTER

YOU

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

IT'S REALLY YOU! YOU'RE ALIVE! IT'S ME, YAGOBEE!

MASUDA!

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE!!

HE HIT ME, BUT DIDN'T STAB ME.

FOR SOME REASON, THE MURDERER DIDN'T DEAL THE FINISHING BLOW.

IT SEEMS I WENT INTO CARDIAC ARREST,

AND TESLA-SENSEI BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE.

FLOP

IS MARUBE-SAN AROUND?

COULD YOU TAKE US TO HIM?

HE DIDN'T WANT TO KILL COPS.

.....

.8

BAM

AND, SINCE YOU'VE SEEN THE CORPSES, WE CAN'T LET YOU GO.

NO.

GIVE UP, YAGOBEE.

I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF FIVE SIBLINGS WITH MY PAY.

IT'S HARD TO FIND A GOOD JOB WITH JUST ONE HAND.

HARADA. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A GOOD POLICEMAN!

AND THAT I'LL GET A HEALTHY BODY.

TESLA-SENSEI ALSO PROMISED HE'D GIVE ME A NEW ARM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE LIKE ME HERE, CAST AWAY BY SOCIETY.

I'VE BECOME A GUARD OF THIS PLACE.

THIS IS A FORT TESLA-SENSEI MADE FOR US, WHO PUT OUR HOPES IN HIS TREATMENT.

HURRY, YOU TWO!!

RUN!!

DASH

SLAM

THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN! HE'S GOT A GUN!!

GO BACK TO THE CAR AND GET AWAY!!

NOT HERE!

WAH! HE'S AFTER US!!

OKAY!

LET'S SPLIT UP

SLAM

IN HERE!

...TESLA.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...!?

MUN!!

...AM I WRONG...

...AKAGI?

INTOU-SENSEI?

WHAT?

DON'T LET THEM MEET TETSUO, NO MATTER WHAT...

...LISTEN UP.

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Chapitre 2 : Le Steel

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF THIS TOWER!!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, SATOKO-SAN.

LISTEN CARE-FULLY!!

THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING.

HEY!!

SO JUST GIVE UP AND LET ME CATCH YOU!!

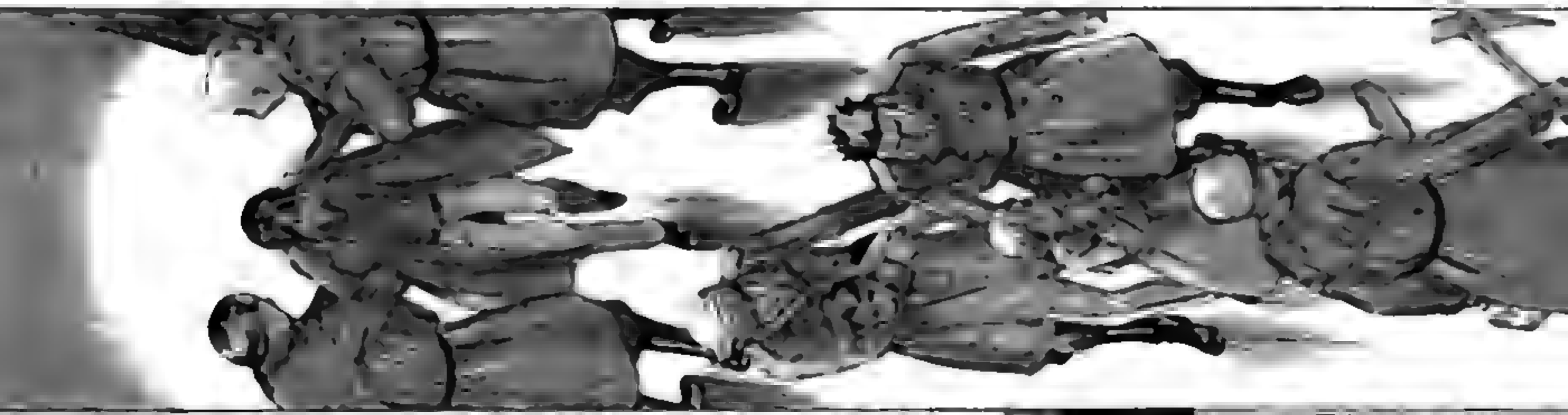
EVEN IF YOUR ARMS AND LEGS GET TORN OFF, TESLA-SENSEI WON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!

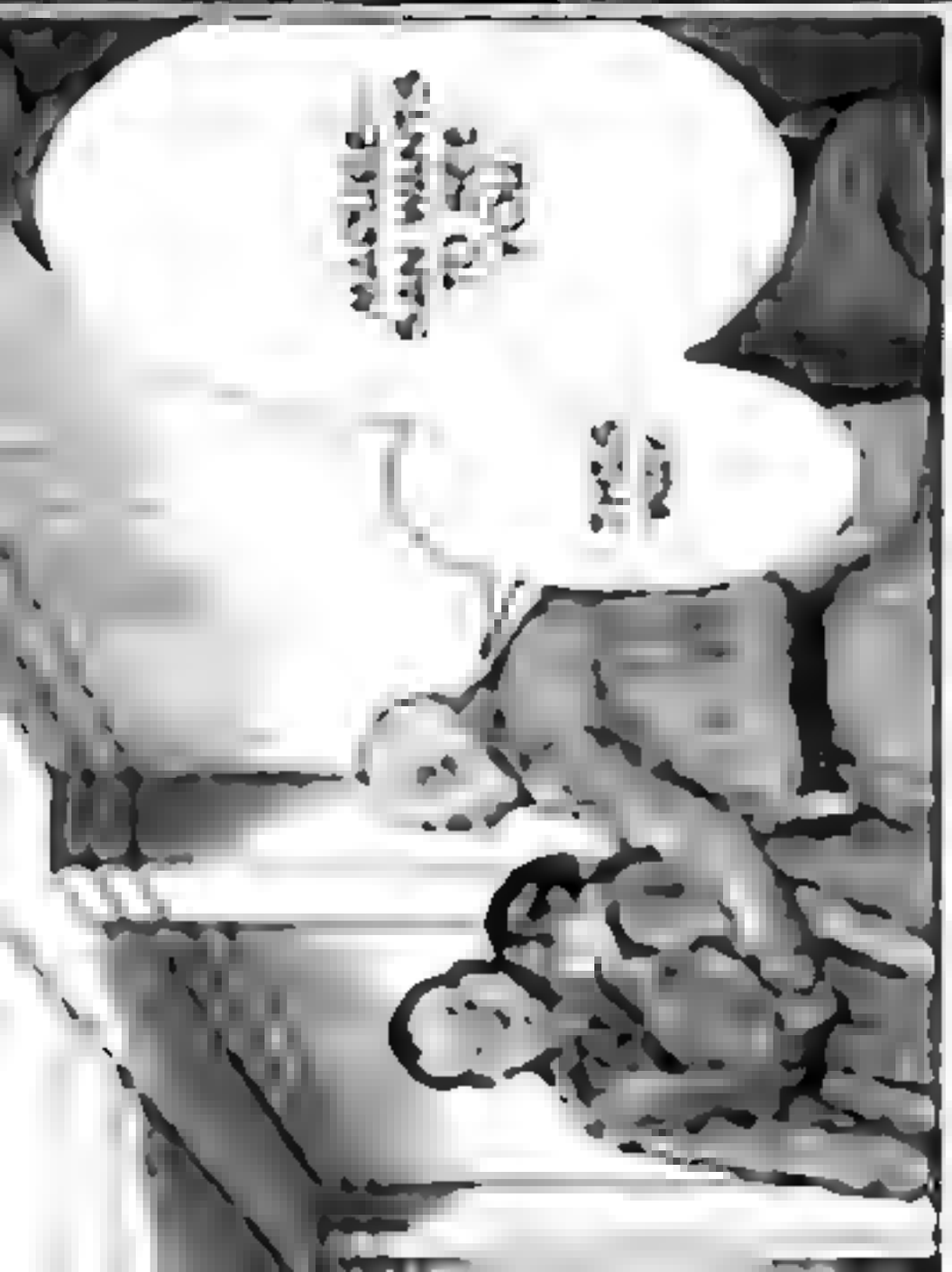
DON'T STOP, SATOKO-SAN!!

!!

MORE THAN JUST A FEW PEOPLE WHO'VE TRIED TO SNEAK IN HERE ENDED UP CRIPPLED.

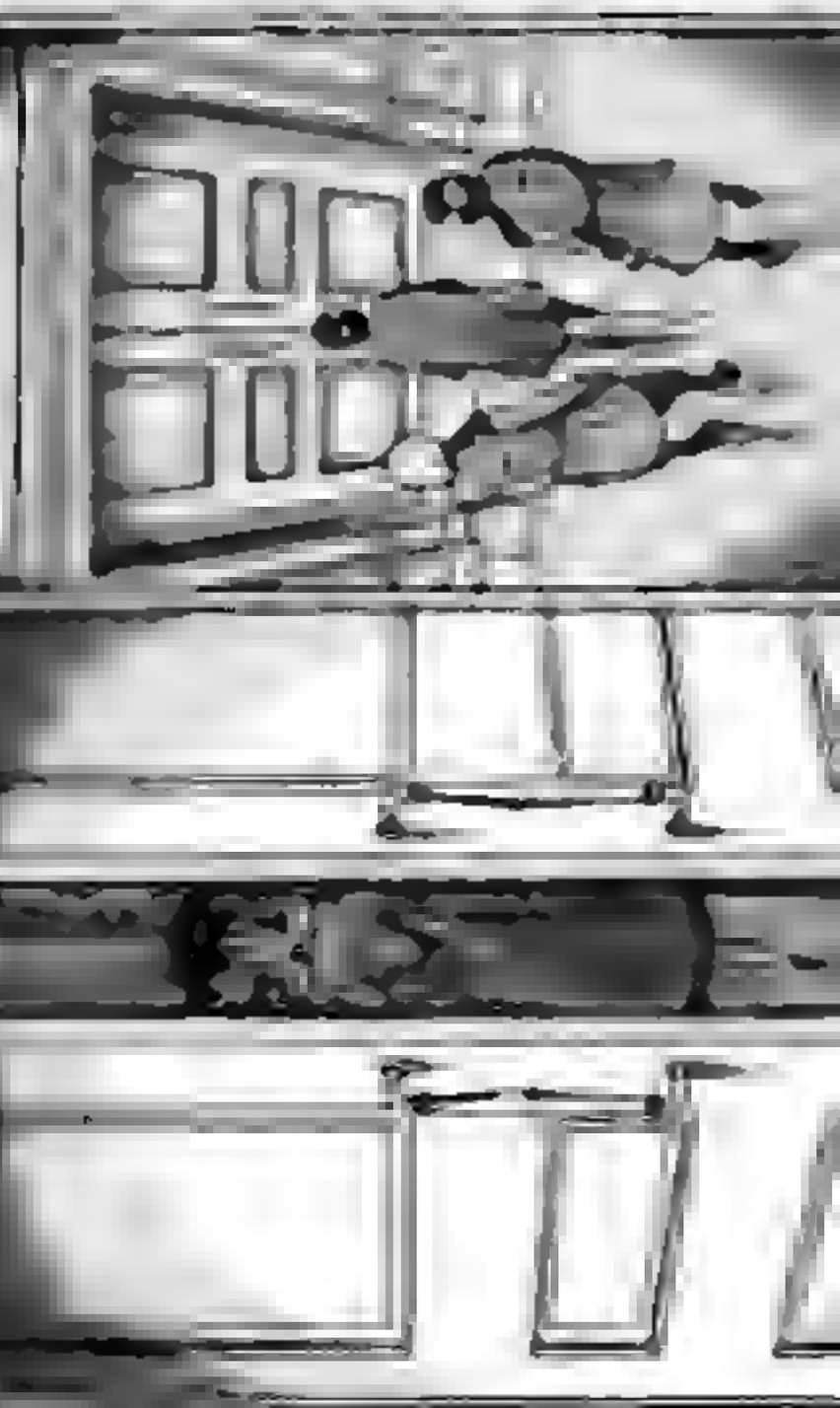
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO JUST GIVE IT.
IF YOU RUN, WE'RE BREAKING ALL HIS JOINTS.




MAYBE
SEE WHAT
I'LL
DO
THIS
WAY

AND
PLEASE
GET THESE
WOUNDS
TREATED!

AHHH!
STIN



I'M SURPRISED... AMANO.

YOU DID WELL, FINDING THIS PLACE IN JUST THREE DAYS.

..THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.

.....

HOW DID YOU DO IT?

I CAN'T LEAVE HIM WITH YOU.

I WANT YOU TO GIVE TETSUO BACK.

. IS THAT...

BUT I REALLY WANT TO SLEEP WITH TETSUO, SO I CAN'T DO THAT.

I'M SORRY,

ABOUT ONATSU, TETSUO, AND ME.

...SO SATOKO TOLD YOU.

IF YOU'RE TETSUO'S FATHER, YOU SHOULD LET HIM GO.

YOUR FIXATION ON THE PAST HAS MESSED YOU UP.

THE WOMAN YOU LOVED?

BECAUSE TETSUO LOOKS A LOT LIKE WADA ONATSU,

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CAN'T LET HER GO.

RIGHT, WE'RE PARENT AND CHILD.

.....

THE BODY MIGHT REJECT IT, AND THE PROCEDURE WILL END UP A FAILURE.

WHEN YOU TRY TO TRANS-PLANT AN ORGAN TO ANOTHER BODY,

HUH?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TRANSPLANT REJECTION IS?

IT SEEMS TRANSPLANT REJECTION DOESN'T HAPPEN THAT OFTEN WHEN IT COMES TO BRAIN TISSUE.

THE ONLY EXCEPTION SEEMS TO BE THE BRAIN.

SO PEOPLE WITH THE SAME BLOOD-TYPE AND RELATIVES ARE PREFERRED.

HOWEVER, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE IT MIGHT HAPPEN,

I JUST TOLD YOU, I'M TALKING ABOUT BRAIN TRANSPLANT.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

.....?

AGAIN
TOAN-
PLANT?

...

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

TETSUO
CAME HERE
BEFORE
YOU DID
YOU SEE

AND
AGREED
TO IT.

TETSUO AND I

WILL SWITCH BRAINS.

BUT WILL IT REALLY WORK?

I AGREED TO THE BRAIN TRANSPLANT,

AFTER THAT, RESEARCH HAS CONTINUED HERE AND THERE FOR CLOSE TO 40 YEARS.

BRAIN CELL TRANSPLANTS THEMSELVES STARTED IN 1915.

I'VE GATHERED THE BEST POSSIBLE STAFF FOR IT!

BUT DUE TO ETHICAL REASONS, NONE OF THE RESULTS WERE MADE PUBLIC.

I SEE.

BUT NOW THEY'RE USING CORPSES TO POLISH THEIR SKILLS.

THEY'RE A MISCHIEVOUS BUNCH WHO PERFORMED VIVISECTION ON AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN KYUSHU,

NO WAY.

BRING TETSUO HERE!!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TETSUO LOOKS LIKE RIGHT NOW?

RIGHT NOW!

ISN'T THAT AN APPEARANCE SHE'D NEVER WANT YOU TO SEE?

SHE'S BECOME A GREAT WOMAN.

WEARING A SEXY DRESS WITH AN EXPOSED BACK AND CLEAVAGE,

I STILL THINK OF HIM AS A GUY.

...DESPITE THAT,

DO YOU REALLY TRUST YOURSELF THAT MUCH?

SHE'D BE IN DESPAIR IF YOU LOOKED AT HER AS A WOMAN FOR EVEN A SECOND, YOU KNOW?

FUHU HUHU.

THAT WHAT'S IMPORTANT ISN'T THE FORM... BUT THE SOUL.

...I THINK,

YOU SAY THE FORM DOESN'T MATTER?

AAAHAH AHAHA!

CAN YOU VIEW **ME** AS A WOMAN?

IN THAT CASE,

IS THAT OF A FOURTEEN YEAR-OLD GIRL.

MY SOUL THAT YEARNS FOR TETSUO'S BODY.

IF YOU GIVE ME YOUR VIRGINITY,

I'LL BELIEVE YOU.

WHAT'S WRONG?

PLEASE, FEEL MY SOUL.

YOU...

18

DON'T HAVE THE RESOLVE TO SEE TETSUO.

GET IN!

HE PLANS ON DOING SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE.

.....

...THE THING IS,

...MARUBE

JUST WANTS TO TRY HAVING SEX WITH HIMSELF...

...THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD'VE SAID BACK THERE.

HE DOESN'T LOVE TETSUO.

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH MARUBE?

TELL TETSUO THAT AMANO'S HERE TO SEE HIM!

SOMEONE OPEN THIS DOOR!

OPEN UP!

IT'S TIME FOR DINNER.

BE QUIET

OR SHOULD I SAY HISAE-SAN?

"Q"!

WON'T YOU HELP ME...?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

.....

THERE'S NO HELPING THAT TETSUO WANTS A MALE BODY.

BUT, I WANT TO PREVENT MARUBE FROM GETTING TETSUO'S BODY.

THE TRUTH IS, YOU ALSO WANT TETSUO'S BODY, AM I RIGHT?

YOU ALWAYS WANTED IT, DIDN'T YOU?

THAT'S WHY IT SHOULD BE ALRIGHT TO GIVE YOU TETSUO'S BODY.

I HEARD THAT THE CHANCES OF A TRANSPLANT REJECTION ARE LOW WHEN IT COMES TO THE BRAIN.

WITH TETSUO'S GOOD LOOKS,

MARUBE'S BRAIN SHOULD JUST GO TO YOUR BODY.

MOMO MOMO MO!

MO MO

YOU MIGHT EVEN GET TESLA TO FALL FOR YOU.

UNDISPUTED WADA ONATSU'S FACE DIVINE.

TESLA-SAMA'S GRANDFATHER, FAMOUS PSYCHIC

AND TESLA-SAMA, WHO SUCCEEDED HIS WILL, ALSO...

.....

RIP

BECAUSE OF YOU, I FINALLY HAVE A CHANCE, HOHOHOHO!

I ALWAYS WONDERED HOW I COULD GET TETSUO'S BODY FOR MYSELF, BUT NOW...

IF YOU DON'T GET THE VACCINE WITHIN 24 HOURS YOU'LL DIE!

IT'S A SLOW-ACTING VIRUS.

JUST SO I KNOW YOU WON'T BETRAY ME, INJECT YOURSELF WITH THIS.

AMANO-SAN!

...!!

NOW LET ME OUT

THIS IS FINE, RIGHT?

24

YOU'VE BECOME A MAN.

IN THE TIME SINCE I LAST SAW YOU,

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Chapter 253 Lecture

I'M NOT LETTING YOU OUT UNLESS YOU INJECT YOURSELF WITH THE VIRUS. I WON'T EVEN LET YOU USE THE BATHROOM.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TWO?

IF NOT, I'M GOING TO SCREAM, "Q."

COM-PROMISE A LITTLE.

SINCE I'M SOMETHING LIKE A HOSTAGE ANYWAY.

CAN'T YOU OVERLOOK THEM?

2

TCH.

YOUR TETSUO IS IN THAT TOWER UP THERE.

NO!

WHY DON'T WE JUST INJECT THEM WITH THE VIRUS AND MAKE THEM OUR ALLIES?

NOT ALL OF THEM ARE STUPID ENOUGH TO DRINK TEA WITH SLEEPING POWDER IN IT.

THERE ARE GUARDS AROUND, SO WE CAN'T JUST WALK OVER THERE.

HE'S LIKE A GOD TO THEM. THEY WOULDN'T BETRAY HIM EVEN IF IT MEANT THEIR DEATHS.

ALL OF THEM ARE CHILDREN FROM HOSTILE NATIONS WHO WERE PERSECUTED DURING THE WAR. MARUBE TOOK THEM IN AND RAISED THEM HERE.

HOW SHOULD WE DO THAT?

FOR NOW, WE NEED TO SEE TETSUO AND TELL HIM THAT MARUBE'S HIS FATHER.

...SO THAT'S WHY THEY WERE ALL FOREIGNERS.

WE NEED A WEAPON.

FIRST,

I MADE A DUPLICATE KEY FOR MASTER'S OFFICE, IN CASE I EVER NEED IT.

CLICK

I HAVE SOMETHING BETTER!

GUNS WON'T BE OF MUCH USE TO AMATEURS.

HMM...

CLUNK

CLUNK

LETTERS?

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHEN MARUBE WAS FOURTEEN AND ONATSU WAS TWENTY FOUR.

THEY WERE IN A RELATIONSHIP

THESE ARE THE LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN MARUBE AND WADA ONATSU.

IN ORDER TO KEEP HER IDENTITY SECRET, SHE USED DIFFERENT NAMES THAT ALL STARTED WITH "O" AS A SIGNAL, SINCE THE KANJI "WA" AND "MARU" IN THEIR NAMES BOTH MEAN "CIRCLE."

CONCERNED ABOUT HIS REPUTATION, MARUBE'S FATHER SENT HIM TO STUDY ABROAD.

"SHE HAS A PRETTY FACE AND SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE YOU'D ENJOY TALKING TO."

"I HIRED A NEW MAID TODAY, A YOUNG PERSON CALLED URAKO-SAN."

HOWEVER, THEY CONTINUED TO EXCHANGE LETTERS IN SECRET.

MY MOTHER WORKED AT WADA ONATSU'S MANSION...?

...URAKO,

THE ONE WHO LOCKED HER UNDERGROUND,

AND KILLED HER...

...MY MOTHER

HAD HER SCREAM AND THE SUN

...THAT MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY BE THE CASE.

WAS MY MOTHER...?

ALL THAT'S JUST CIRCUM-STANTIAL EVIDENCE.

JUST LEAVE THEM ALL ON A SNOWY MOUNTAIN, THEY'LL EVEN KILL THEIR COMRADES.

FU HUHU HU.

IT SEEMS BELIEV-ABLE~

THAT'S HOW IT WORKS, AHAHAHAHA!!

IF IT'S FOR THEIR IDEALS, COMMUNISTS HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH KILLING PEOPLE.

SO,

HE LED "SHIBANMUSHI" TO HER.

BUT IT PROBABLY CROSSED MARUBE'S MIND THAT URAKO KILLED ONATSU.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S TRUE,

SO TAKING THEM IS THE SAME AS TAKING A HOSTAGE.

THEY'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO HIM. NEXT TO HIS LIFE.

TAKE THE LETTERS.

AND EXACTED REVENGE

COME LET'S GO

THE SURGERY'S TOMORROW, RIGHT? I KEEP THINKING HOW I MIGHT DIE, SO I CAN'T SLEEP.

CLICK

KNOCK KNOCK

...NO.

THE MEDS? DID YOU BRING THEM?

IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THERE ARE NO DRUGS IN YOUR SYSTEM.

I WANT THE SURGERY TO BE PERFECT.

I CALLED YOU HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO TALK.

THING IS,

OUTERWORLD SCANS

YOU'RE A HANDSOME MAN.

WHY AREN'T YOU YOURSELF AT LEAST IN THIS TOWER?

NOT MY REAL FACE.

THAT'S —

WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT MASK EVEN IN YOUR PRIVATE TIME?

SAY— TESLA.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT MY FACE ORIGINALLY LOOKED LIKE.

MY GRANDFATHER MESSED WITH MY FACE MANY TIMES, SINCE WAY BEFORE I CAN REMEMBER.

IF I TAKE OFF THIS MASK,

I'M NOT REALLY THERE.

I'M EMPTY.

ONLY WHEN I'M WEARING THIS MASK OF MY GRANDFATHER'S LIKENESS,

DO I FEEL AT EASE.

...HOWEVER, IT'S EXACTLY BECAUSE I'M NO ONE

THAT I CAN BE IMPARTIAL TO ALL MANKIND.

THERE'S NO ONE I'D PARTICU-LARLY LOVE.

.....

YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T CARE THAT MY BODY'S FEMALE.

I THOUGHT,

THAT MAYBE YOU'D UNDERSTAND ME, BUT...

FOR A FRIEND IN ME.

DON'T LOOK

SORRY.

I WANTED

AT LEAST ONE MORE TIME.

TO SEE TAICHI.

RI RI

THAT'S THE PLACE ALRIGHT

RI
RI
RI
RI
RI
RI

COME OOOOUT!

HEEEEEY! MARUBE!!

SATOKO-SAN?

THAT'S

I CAN'T HEAR

IF YOU DON'T, I'M BURNING ALL OF ONATSU'S LETTERS!!

IS AMANO-KUN HERE, TOO?

...NO WAY.

IS THIS MARUBE-SAN?

KA CHAK

YES?

BRRRRRRRRRING

I BROUGHT HER HERE BECAUSE SHE SAID SHE WANTED A DOUBLE EYELID.

NO, IT'S JUST SATOKO.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

IS AMANO-KUN ALSO HERE?

SHE'S EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE.

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SHE GOT SCARED.

NEVER MIND HER AND REST.

FUTEKIWORLD SCANS

WHICH MEANS

KILLING THEM IS THE ONLY THING YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DO.
DON'T KILL THEM

I'M ALSO THROWING THEM FROM HERE!

IF YOU WANT 'EM, COME AND GET 'EM!

WE CAN MUST THEM ALL WE WANT

SINCE THEY'RE VALUABLE TREASURE

EVEN IF THEY KNOW IT'S A DIVERSION THEY'LL STILL GO FOR IT.

SEE?

I TOLD THEM TO BACK DOWN BEFORE IT GETS TOO DANGEROUS, BUT

WILL THOSE TWO BE ALRIGHT?

YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?

THUD

YOU'RE ONLY ALLOWED TO TELL TETSUO THAT MARUBE'S HER FATHER,

AND THAT HER BODY BELONGS TO ME.

GOT THAT?

IF YOU SAY ANYTHING TO CHANGE HER MIND ABOUT THE SURGERY... YOU'RE DEAD.

...I GET IT.

SO SHE SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME.

...I HAVE...

ONE THING I NEED TO TELL HIM NO MATTER WHAT,

IS THAT ALRIGHT?

WHAT?

"I LOVE YOU"? "WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT"?

SO CLICHÉ~

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT...

JUST ONE SHORT WORD.

'HE' SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT?

NO MATTER WHAT.

...I NEED TO TELL HIM THAT.

UTOMANGA SCANS

TETSU...O.

.....

...AMANO
...KUN.

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Chapter 78: Skilled

TESLA WENT TO GO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT HE'LL BE BACK SOON.

CLOSE THE DOOR!

.....

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

2

I CAME HERE TO WARN YOU.

.....

HE'S HIDING THAT AND PLANS ON DOING IT WITH YOU NONETHE-LESS.

HE'S YOUR FATHER.

YOU MUSTN'T TRUST MARUBE.

WHAT?

HUH?

AND SHE GOT PREGNANT WITH HIS CHILD RIGHT BEFORE HE LEFT FOR EUROPE.

WHEN HE WAS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD, MARUBE FELL IN LOVE WITH WADA ONATSU.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HER

THAT'S WHY HE'S SO ATTACHED TO YOU.

.....!!

THEN SOMEONE LOCKED ONATSU UNDERGROUND AND PUT THE CHILD IN AN ORPHANAGE THAT CHILD WAS YOU

ALL THE RECORDS WERE DESTROYED BECAUSE OF THE GREAT FLOOD AND THE AIR RAID, SO MARUBE WASN'T ABLE TO FIND YOU.

I SEE.

.....

ALL YOU WANTED TO TELL ME?

WAS THAT...

ALSO, I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME LOOKING LIKE THIS.

YOU SHOULD LEAVE BEFORE SOMEONE FINDS YOU.

HE WANTS TO SLEEP WITH ME?

I KNEW THAT ALREADY.

IS YOU AFTER THE SURGERY, AM I RIGHT?

WHAT YOU DON'T WANT ME TO SEE,

I DON'T REMEMBER ASKING YOUR OPINION.

THIS IS SOME-THING I'VE DECIDED BY MYSELF.

MARUBE TOLD ME...

YOU...

FUTUREWORLD SCANS

PLAN ON DYING, DON'T YOU?

.....

BUT IF YOU GIVE UP ON YOUR FUTURE AND WANT TO DIE, THAT'S JUST TOO PITIFUL.

THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE AS SMART AS YOU WOULD BELIEVE IN SOMETHING AS CRAZY AS A BRAIN TRANSPLANT.

AMANO, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!!

HEY!

THE DEAL WAS TO GET TETSUO TO PROMISE ME HER BODY!!

I'M THROWING AWAY THE VACCINE!!

IF YOU SAY ANYTHING WEIRD,

DON'T YOU CARE IF YOU DIE?!

CLICK

GYAH!!

SLAM

YOU'RE JUST PRETENDING TO BELIEVE A FAIRY-TALE WHERE YOU'RE REBORN AS A MAN,

SO THAT YOU DON'T LOOK PITIFUL.

AM I RIGHT?

YOU BETRAYED ME, AMANO!!

SACRIFICING ONESELF OUT OF A SENSE OF DUTY IS THE WAY OF A MAN...

AMANO-KUN!!

DON'T TELL ME YOU GOT INJECTED BY THE VIRUS AGAIN...

.....

IF IT'S MY BODY YOU WANT, YOU CAN HAVE IT.

WAIT A SECOND, "Q"!!

WELL, IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW.

DON'T GO THROUGH WITH THE BRAIN TRANSPLANT.

DON'T, TETSUO.

IT'S THE SAME EVEN IF IT SUCCEEDS.

IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN I'LL DIE.

.....

ONCE YOU GET MARUBE'S BODY?

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN,

THE TETSUO I KNOW WILL DIE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING WILL HAPPEN?

.....

YOU'LL BECOME THE PERFECT MAN WHO HAS IT ALL: LOOKS, WISDOM, MONEY AND POWER.

YOU'LL HAVE NO WEAKNESSES.

YOU'LL PROBABLY BE THE BEST IN EVERYTHING YOU DO... ALL JUST TO PROVE THAT YOU'RE SUPERIOR AS A MAN.

YOU MIGHT SAY OTHERWISE, BUT YOU'LL BECOME A TOTAL PLAYBOY, YOU'LL GO THROUGH WOMEN SO FAST YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO REST.

BUT BECAUSE OF THAT SUFFERING,

AND THAT WEAKNESS MADE HIM SUFFER.

HE WAS NICE TO WEAKLINGS.

THE TETSUO I KNOW...

HAD A GREAT WEAKNESS IN HIS HEART.

THAT SOUNDS GREAT.

THAT'S EXACTLY HOW MEN ARE.

MEAN BEING KIND?

DOESN'T BEING A MAN...

THAT KINDNESS.

I RESPECTED

AM I SUPPOSED TO SUFFER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?

IS BEING EFFEMI-NATE?

ARE YOU SAYING THAT WANTING A MALE BODY

YOU SEEM LIKE A FINE GUY.

AT LEAST TO ME,

LIAR.

WHY WON'T YOU LOOK AT ME?

THEN WHY HAVE YOU BEEN AVERTING YOUR EYES?

... I ALWAYS SUFFERED...

...YOU'RE WRONG...

YOU'RE DOING IT TO HIDE THE LUSTFUL WAY YOU LOOK AT ME!

IT'S BECAUSE OF MY CLEAVAGE, ISN'T IT?

FUTEKWORLD SCANS

STOP.

BECAUSE OF THOSE LOOKS.

STOP IT.

PLEASE STOP...

OPEN YOUR EYES.

YOU'RE A MAN.

YOU CAN STOP.

THIS IS HOW A MAN'S BODY GETS

OF THE MIND AND BODY NOT COOPER-ATING

YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE PAIN

SLAM

RUN

BAM

SINCE WE'VE GOT SOME PEOPLE HERE WITH [illegible] IDEAS

WE'LL BEGIN THE SURGERY NOW, TETSUO.

CUTEMANGA WORLD SCANS

.....

TELL YOU ONE LAST THING...?

CAN I...

GIVE AMANO THE VACCINE AND TREAT HIS WOUNDS.

ALRIGHT.

LET'S GO.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANNA SAY?!

YOU'RE SO UNMANLY!

TELL YOU YOUR REAL NAME.

I WANT TO...

IT'S "REI".

REAL NAME?

AND SO THEY NAMED YOU REIKO.

THE PEOPLE AT THE ORPHANAGE ONLY KNEW THE SOUND OF YOUR NAME SO THEY GUESSED THE KANJI,

O, ZERO, "REI."

IT'S THE KANJI FOR ZERO, PUT TOGETHER FROM THE CIRCLE IN MARUBE AND THE CIRCLE IN WADA.

TOO BAD FOR YOU, YOU PROBABLY WANTED HER TO HEAR IT FROM YOUR OWN MOUTH!!

HO HOHO HO!

YOU WERE NAMED AFTER YOUR PARENTS.

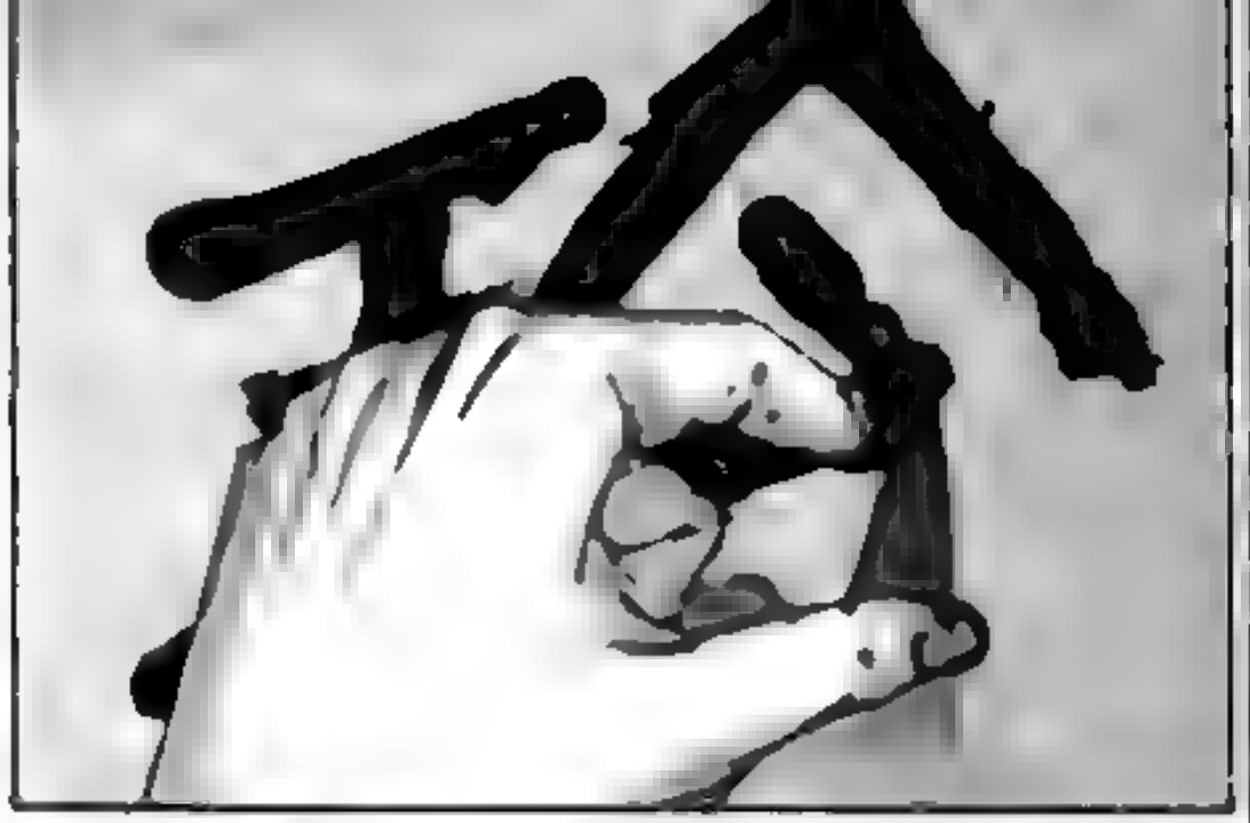
MARUBE-SAN.

SO YOU READ IT THAT WAY, TOO,

SATOKO ALSO READ IT THAT WAY.

OF COURSE YOU WOULD READ IT THAT WAY.

IF YOU THINK OF A GIRL,



WAS THIS ONE.
THE KANJI WRITTEN IN THE BOX

AKIRA.

IT'S NOT A FABRICATED NAME LIKE REIKO OR TETSUO.

IT'S A REAL,

GENUINE MAN'S NAME.

FU HU

IT'S "REI"!

IT'S "REI."

.....

YOU BOTH...

IT'S A NAME YOU CAN PROUDLY SAY OUT LOUD NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.

OUTERWORLD SCANS

BECAUSE YOU CAN ONLY SEE THAT PERSON AS A WOMAN!

MAY NOT BE ABLE TO READ THAT KANJI AS ANYTHING BUT "REI,"

I CAN ONLY READ IT AS "AKIRA."

BUT...

AKIRA!!

"AKIRA."

PLEASE ANSWER.

TAICHI.

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Chapter 55: Mission

玲

HAS CALLED ME TAICHI!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A FRIEND...

2

I HAVE...

I DON'T DISLIKE IT.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, I WON'T CALL YOU THAT AGAIN.

I'M THE REASON THAT "SHIBANMUSHI," A MERE THIEF, BECAME A MURDEROUS DEMON...

WHEN MY MOTHER GOT TIED UP ON THE CLOCK, I STOOD BY AND WATCHED HER DIE,

I HAVE A HUGE DEBT TO REPAY.

MY FOOLISH ACTIONS CAUSED MANY PEOPLE TO DIE

IN THE EVENT THAT IT DOES SUCCEED, I PLAN TO RUN AWAY FROM IT ALL.

AND,

I, TOO, LIVED AS A WOMAN, SO I UNDERSTAND.

...EVEN IF IT WAS FOR JUST A SHORT WHILE,

FOR YOU, THAT WAS VIOLENCE, RIGHT?

...YOU DETESTED YOUR MOTHER WHO WANTED YOU TO BE GIRLY, RIGHT?

IS THIS RECKLESS BRAIN SURGERY JUST FOR THAT?!

AND TO MAKE UP FOR IT, YOU PLAN ON DYING?

FOR A LONG TIME.

YOU WERE BEING MISTREATED...

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO JUST FORGET IT?

YOU EXECUTED "SHIBANMUSHI," BUT YOU'LL FORGIVE ME?

COULD YOU STILL SAY THE SAME ABOUT SOMEONE WHO WOULD JUST STAND BY AND WATCH WHILE SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU DIED?

...I DON'T THINK THAT PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW OF YOUR SUFFERING HAVE THE RIGHT TO JUDGE YOU.

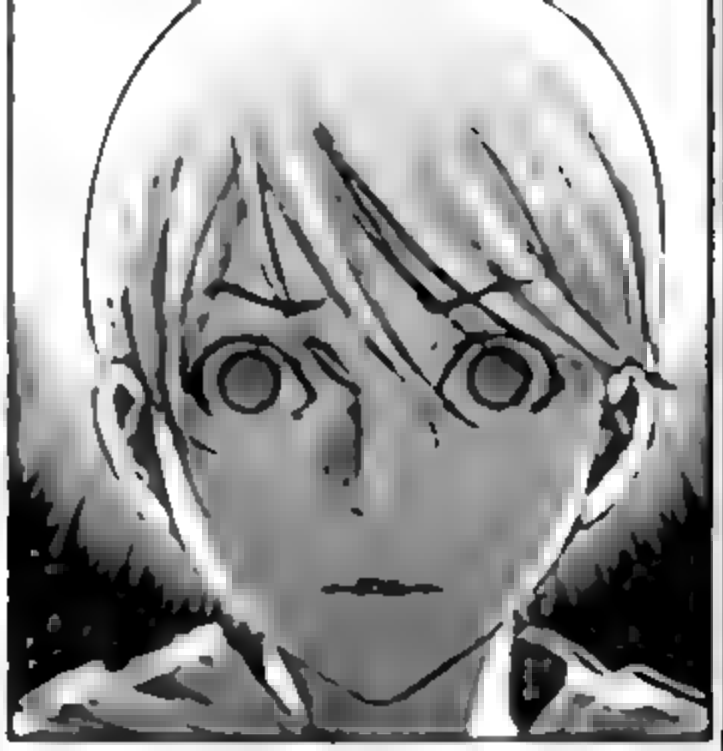
HOWEVER, NOT EVERY-ONE CAN UNDERSTAND THAT.

THE WORLD PROBABLY ONLY SEES IT AS A DISPUTE BETWEEN STEPMOTHER AND STEPDAUGHTER.

I DON'T KNOW...

.....

GUTSWORLD SCANS



ON A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE LIKE YOU WILL BE SEEN AS NORMAL.
STAKING OUR LIFE-TIMES...
LET'S DO IT TOGETHER!!

THAT I WANT TO CREATE A WORLD THAT WILL JUDGE YOU FAIRLY.
BUT IT'S EXACTLY BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW,

AFTER-WARDS!
YOU CAN ATONE FOR YOUR SINS

TOGETHER!

LET'S CREATE IT.

I HAVE THE VACCINE IN THE OPERATING ROOM.

NO NEED TO WORRY.

HURRY AND GIVE AMANO THE VACCINE

TESLA.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR FURTHER IDLE CHATTER.

THEN LET'S HURRY OVER THERE.

AKIRA!

DON'T EVER CALL HER BY THAT NAME AGAIN.

THOSE ARE ALL SIGNS OF ONATSU'S AND MY LOVE. THERE'S NO OTHER MEANING TO IT.

OH, WAIT! WE ALL CIRCLES

MY DAUGHTER'S NAME IS OI!

WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR ZERO.

I'LL BE ABLE TO PERFORM ANOTHER 2 OR 3 MORE, RIGHT AWAY.

IF THIS SURGERY SUCCEEDS,

I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA...

DO I HAVE TO SHAVE MY HEAD?

WHOSE BODY?

WILL ALSO BE REBORN INTO A NEW BODY.

THAT PITIFUL "SHIBAN-MUSHI"

YAMA-SHINA-SAN?

THE ONE WHO WAS TOGETHER WITH YOU AND AMANO.

A YOUNG POLICE OFFICER WHOSE BRAIN'S RIGHT SIDE WAS DAMAGED.

SOUNDS DISGUSTING.

.....

SO, THEY GAVE YOU THE VACCINE?

.....

DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH SUCH CRITICAL EYES!

TAICHI,

DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

RUN FOR IT!!

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RUN IF WE'RE SURROUNDED.

THE SECURITY GUARDS WILL BE HERE SOON!

OFFICER YAGOBEE AND SATOKO-SAN ARE STILL IN HERE!

BUT WE CAN'T RUN AWAY LIKE THIS!

THIS *GHOST TOWER* IS A PLACE THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST.

I DON'T PLAN ON JUST RUNNING IN THE FIRST PLACE.

GOT IT'

THEY'LL SUFFER IF WE JUST LEAVE THEM..!!

I'LL DESTROY IT!!

GUTENMORLD SCANS

YOU SURRENDERED WITHOUT RESISTING. I'M SORRY...

SO THAT YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RUN AWAY AGAIN.

BUT I'LL HAVE TO BREAK BOTH YOUR LEGS,

DON'T TOUCH HER!!

.....

WE ALREADY BROKE YOUR FRIEND'S LEGS.

.....

I'M SORRY.

TO ME?

IT'S TO HARADA,

APOLO-GIZING IS POINTLESS.

THE GUY WHO USED TO BE A POLICE OFFICER.

BACK THEN, WHEN WE WERE UNDER-GROUND,

IT'S NOT TO YOU.

YOU SAVED ME FROM CERTAIN DEATH, YET I....

I... JUST DIDN'T WANT TO DIE!!

I'M SORRY FOR ABANDONING YOU...

THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLO-GIZE.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...!!

I ALWAYS WONDERED...

YOU'RE THAT KIND OF PERSON.

I KNOW,

I MADE THAT RESOLVE.

I WAS A POLICE OFFICER BACK THEN.

THAT'S WHY, BECAUSE YOU DECIDED TO JOIN MARUBE, YOU PRETEND TO BE HEARTLESS DESPITE YOUR NATURE.

YOU ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION NO MATTER WHAT.

IT WAS MY JOB TO RISK MY LIFE TO PROTECT CITIZENS.

YOU'RE NOT REALLY A MAN WHO CAN DO THAT!!

BUT, HARADA,

WHO ARE THE WEAK ONES?

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW,

YOU SAID YOU'D PROTECT THE WEAK.

HERE I GO

I'M STEPPING DOWN

ONE TWO

THEN YOUR MISSION ISN'T OVER YET!!

IF YOU'VE RESOLVED TO RISK YOUR LIFE TO PROTECT SATOKO-SAN,

HARADA!!

BANG

...SEEMS MY MISSION ISN'T OVER YET!

HARADA!!

!!

WITH JUST THE FOUR OF YOU?

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO TAKE ME ON,

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Chapter 7: The Breeding

TA

DAH

GET DOWN!!

DUN

TA TATATA

TA
TA
TA
GUH!
TA
TA
TA

CLICK

YAGOBEE, HOLD ON TO ME TIGHT!

I'LL NEVER...

ABANDON ANYONE AGAIN!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR BUDDY OVER THERE TO BACK AWAY FROM THE TESLA COIL!

IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT'S

WELL JUST MAKE YOU LEAVE THE CIRCLE WITH US

BANG

POW

HEEH!

OHO HEEH!

POW

TAICHI, GIVE ME THAT!!

THEY'RE GOING SHOT AT FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE!!

TA

TA TA

TA

TA

TA TA

TA

HOW!? YOU'D NEED TO CALL IN A BOMBER FOR THAT!!

NO, WE'RE TAKING DOWN THIS TOWER FIRST!!

LET'S STEAL A CAR FROM THE GARAGE UNDERGROUND AND RUN AWAY!!

THEY HURT HIM AGAIN...!!

YAGOBEE -SAN!!

HUG! HUG! HUG!

IF WE DESTROY THE POWER GENERATOR FACILITY AND THE WATER SUPPLY PIPES, THIS PLACE WILL BECOME USELESS.

I DON'T INTEND TO COMPLETELY BLOW IT UP!!

DIESEL DOESN'T EVAPORATE AT ROOM TEMPER-ATURE... IT WON'T IGNITE.

TCH!

ANY OTHER INFO?

DIESEL. THERE'S ABOUT 3 MONTHS' WORTH OF IT.

WHERE'S THE POWER GENERATOR? IS IT FUELLED BY GASOLINE?

HE WON'T BE ABLE TO RESURRECT "SHIBAN-MUSHI" EITHER!!

HARADA-SAN, YOUR ARM IS BLEEDING!!

MY TENDONS ARE CONNECTED TO THE ARTIFICIAL ARM.

AND IT STARTS BLEEDING.

SO IF I FIRE A FULLY AUTOMATIC, IT STRAINS THE PARTS WHERE THEY CONNECT,

...WELL, THERE'S A HOT SPRING WATER LINE RUNNING THROUGH HERE, SO YOU CAN TRY USING THE HEAT FROM THE WATER.

FWAAEEE

BA

PSHEW

BOOM

TURN OFF THE SAFETY AND PULL ON THE CABLE INSIDE AND IT'LL WORK!

IT'S ONE OF MY SPARE ARMS. IT'S SOMETHING LIKE A MAINTAR, BUT IT'LL ONLY FIRE ONCE!

IF YOU PLAN ON TAKING OUT THE POWER GENERATOR, USE THIS!!

GOT IT!

HOT GAS WILL COME OUT WHEN YOU FIRE, SO BE CAREFUL!!

HURRY AND GO!!

WE'LL MEET UP AT THE GARAGE!

BOOM!!

OKAY. TAICHI, I'M FIRING!

THIS IS THE POWER GENER-ATOR!!

IT MISSED!

.....!!

NO

ONLY THE WATER CAME OUT

BAM

BAM

BAM

WE CAN STILL DESTROY EVERYTHING.

BAM

IF IT HEATS UP TO FORTY DEGREES, IT'LL EVAPORATE AND THEN IT CAN LIGHT UP WITH A SPARK.

DIESEL WON'T CATCH FIRE IN ITS LIQUID STATE.

WE CAN USE THE WATER'S WARMTH, SINCE IT'S OVER FORTY DEGREES.

JUST SOME STATIC ELECTRICITY.

.....

AND KABOOM!

YEAH.

LET'S GO, TAICHI.

DRESSING UP SURE TOOK SOME TIME.

SO?

DOES IT SUIT ME?

I PROBABLY DO...

YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?

BUT YOU, SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO LIVE AS A GUY, ARE THE SAME, RIGHT?

REI.

SO COME BACK TO THE SURGERY ROOM WITH ME,

WHAT'S WRONG?

DO I LOOK LIKE A PERVERT?

REI?

I'LL CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH THAT NAME!

MY NAME IS *AKIRA!!*

DON'T CALL ME BY THAT NAME!

SO EVEN IF YOU DECIDE YOU WANT A MAN'S BODY 40, EVEN 50 YEARS FROM NOW,

NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS PASS, SOCIETY WON'T CHANGE.

WILL BE WEAK FROM OLD AGE.

MY BODY, WHICH IS COMPATIBLE WITH YOURS,

...YOU'LL REGRET THIS, YOU KNOW.

THIS IS PARENTAL LOVE.

PLEASE BELIEVE ME.

I WANT TO GIVE YOU THE BEST BODY POSSIBLE.

DID YOU HIDE THE FACT THAT WE'RE PARENT AND CHILD?

THEN WHY

WHY?!

YOU WANTED TO SLEEP WITH ME THAT BADLY?

A CHILD.

ALL TO ELIMINATE THE RISK OF TRANSPLANT REJECTION.

HE WANTS TO BREED A CHILD, ONE WHO'D BE OF HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD,

IN ORDER TO MOVE FROM ONE BODY TO ANOTHER,

AND STAY YOUNG FOREVER...

IN ORDER TO LIVE FOREVER.

ETERNAL LIFE?

SHOULD THE BRAIN TRANSPLANT SUCCEED, THEN THAT'LL BECOME A REALITY.

THAT'S WHAT HE DESIRES!!

THAT'S RIGHT

NO

.....

MAYUBE, YOU MAKE ME SICK!!

...YOU'RE JUST A SEEDBED TO HIM...!!

IF YOU TWO HAVE A CHILD, IT WOULD BE A PERFECT MATCH FOR HIM.

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Chapter 77: Eternal Life

ETERNAL

"LOVE."

WHAT I WANT IS...

THROW AWAY THAT AMBI-TION!!

THE SURGERY WON'T SUCCEED!!

YOU'RE MESSED UP!!

.....!!

I THINK IT'S BEAUTIFUL AND PURE.

I'LL ONLY ACCEPT LIVING FOR-EVER IN A BODY THAT SHARES ONATSU'S BLOOD AND MINE.

THAT'S WHY,

...IT'S NOT AMBITION

NOR IS IT DESIRE.

QUITE THE OPPOSITE, IT'S THE FLEETING REMNANTS OF...

THAT WAS TRAMPLED OVER BY THOSE FILTHY THINGS.

THE LOVE [illegible] AND I SHARED

TO YOUR FATHER'S EMBRACE.

NOW, REI, COME...

...PFT.

I SEE, YOU SURE ARE A ROMANTIC.

YOU'VE GOT THE MIND OF A YOUNG GIRL.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I FEEL LIKE WE'RE RELATED.

I'LL NEVER BECOME AN ADULT, SO I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS.

IT'S THAT (IF A GIRL)

HOWEVER, MY MIND ISN'T THAT OF A GIRL,

NOT FOUND TO ANYTHING? ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS BEING AN ANIMAL?

NOT EVEN A PARENT'S LOVE

MY IDEA OF ROMANCE IS GOING OFF ON ADVENTURES NOT FOUND TO ANYTHING

OUTERWORLD SCANS

THAT'S NOT YOUR JOB

I'LL GIVE YOU A MALE BODY AND BIND YOU, SO:

YOU DON'T SEEM TO NOTICE IT, BUT YOU WANT TO BE BOUND.

YOU KNOW, WANTING TO BE A GUY MEANS BEING BOUND TO THE MALE GENDER.

AND LOOK AFTER ME, SO THAT I WON'T LOSE MY PRIDE!

RIGHT HERE, I HAVE A FRIEND TO LEAD ME DOWN THE RIGHT PATH...

DON'T EVER CALL ME REI AGAIN.

MY NAME IS *AKIRA.*

I KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN ANYONE ELSE.

WHEN IT COMES TO ETERNAL LOVE,

IN THE STORIES FEATURED IN KASUTORI MAGAZINES...!!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT IT FOR 20 YEARS...

YOU'RE A VIRGIN, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

AND AT THE END OF THE STORY, THEY PLEDGE THEIR LOVE TO ONE ANOTHER.

A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN AND A MAN BRIMMING WITH CURIOSITY MEET,

I ALWAYS FELT LONELY AFTER I FINISHED READING THEM.

BUT NO MATTER HOW WONDERFUL THE STORY IS, THE ENDING IS ALWAYS BORING.

THESE STORIES AREN'T CORNY,

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BOOKS.

.....

PEOPLE WITHOUT STRUGGLES HAVE NO CHARM, AND THEIR LOVE CAN'T GROW.

BECAUSE THE PEOPLE IN THEM DON'T HAVE ANY MORE STRUGGLES TO OVERCOME.

AFTER HE GAVE UP THE STRUGGLE AND ACCEPTED HIS FEMALE BODY?

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF HIS APPEARANCE,

WHAT DID YOU THINK WHEN YOU SAW AKIRA IN A DRESS?

DIDN'T YOU THINK HE WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO HOW HE WAS WHEN HE WAS DRESSED AS A GUY?

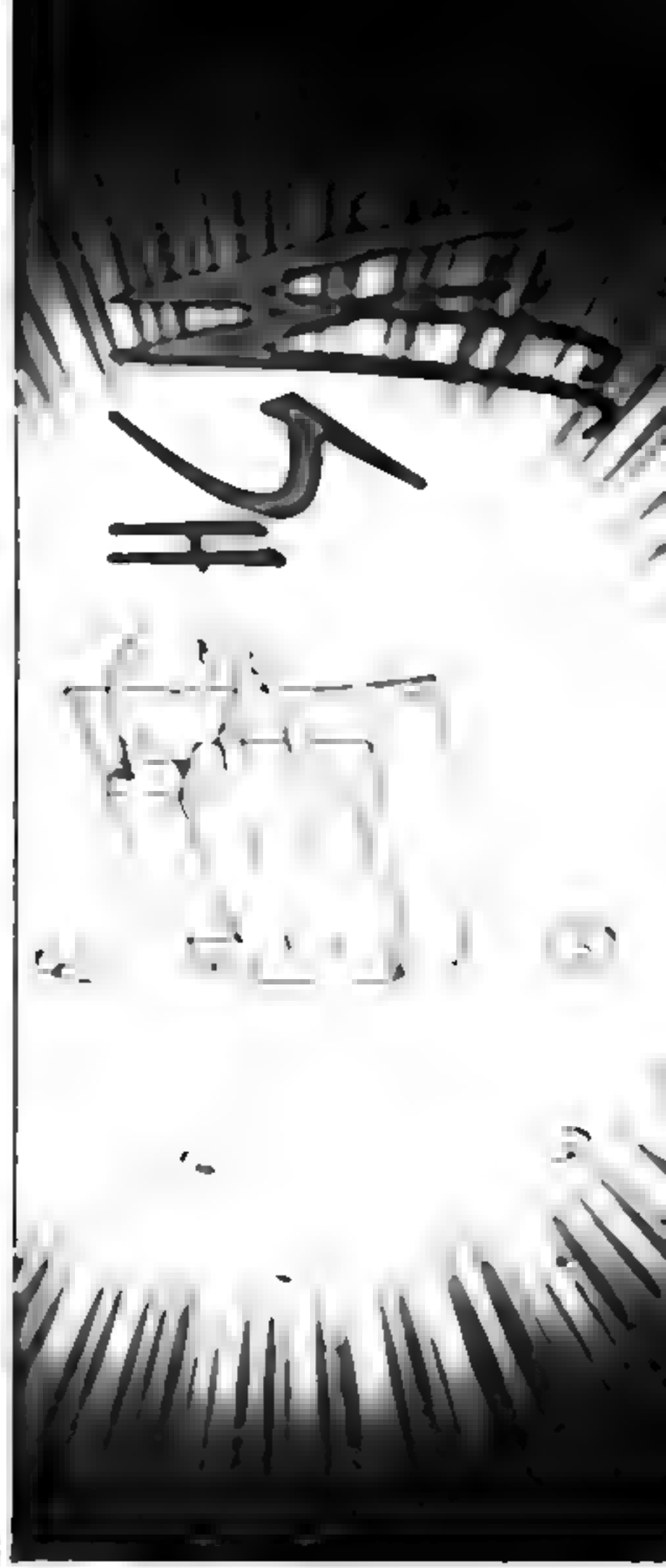
DIDN'T YOU THINK HE WAS JUST PRETTY AND BORING?

THEN LET HIM GO.

IF WHAT I'M SAYING IS TRUE,

NO WAY.

BOOM
BOOM


HA

CLEAK

GAH!!

WHAT?

.....!!

WOOSH

WHERE'S AKIRA?

IT'S DARK.

THE DIESEL CAUGHT FIRE...!!

...A HAND...

TAICHI

THE EXIT'S OVER THERE.

CAN YOU STAND?!

ARE YOU OKAY?!

Flip

WHERE ARE YOU?!

AKIRA!!

COME ON, LET'S GO.

WE'RE OUT!

GYA
AAA
AH!!

IT'S YOU, ANANO.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, EVERYTHING WOULD'VE GONE AS PLANNED.

HIII IIII II!!

MIII, STOP!!

I SHOULD GET RID OF YOU...

KILLING CHANGES A PERSON...

THAT'S THE ONE THING I'D NEVER DO.

NO WAY.

DO YOU PLAN ON KILLING ME!?

I WAITED OVER 20 YEARS FOR SOMEONE LIKE "SHIBANMUSHI" TO SHOW UP.

EVEN WHEN IT CAME TO KILLING URAKO IN ORDER TO AVENGE ONATSU,

IF I DO THAT, THEN I'LL NO LONGER BE THE SAME [illegible] I WAS WHEN I MET ONATSU.

WILL YOU LET ME GO?!

THEN WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH ME?!

I'M GOING TO RAPE YOU.

WHA AAT?

YOU...

20

...AND SHE'LL COME BACK TO ME.

IF I RAPE YOU, THAT'LL BREAK YOU, RIGHT?

THEN YOU'LL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO SUPPORT REI.

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT RAPE HERE!

I TOLD YOU THIS WHEN YOU CAME HERE,

WEREN'T YOU RUTHLESS WHEN IT CAME TO PUNISHING RAPISTS?!

THAT'S NOT FAIR!

I'LL BE THE ONE ENTERING, AHAHAHAHA!

SINCE IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET IT UP,

HII!

AHA HA HA!

AHA HA HA!

YOU'D HAVE TO SLEEP WITH ME IN ORDER TO MEET WITH HER.

AND SINCE YOU'VE MET WITH HER, NOW YOU HAVE TO SLEEP WITH ME.

FAIR IS FAIR, RIGHT?

WHERE IS HE?!

AKIRA,

TETSUO,

WAA AAA AH!

KA

BLAM

OH, JUST THE PERSON TO HELP WITH YOUR REHABILI-TATION.

OF ALL PEOPLE,

"SHIBAI-AUSHI"-SAN.

IT'S THE ONE WHO MADE YOU LIKE THIS.

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Georgium Sidus Wilsonii

AAH

SQUEEEE

HI III II!!

UWAH!!

DRR OOM

WA WA WA!

RATTLE

BAM

MK. OH. MY.

YOU'RE CORNERED, AMANO.

GYAA AAA!

RATTL

MIH!

TWNK

!!

BUT HIS REASON FOR TRYING TO GET THE TREASURE WAS TRULY BEAUTIFUL.

HE LOOKS LIKE A REAL MONSTER NOW,

A MIDWIFE AND HER EX-COP HUSBAND TOOK THE RESOURCES GIVEN TO THEM FOR CHILDCARE, NEGLECTED THE BABIES AND LET THEM STARVE, WHICH RESULTED IN OVER 100 OF THEM DYING.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE MIYUKI ISHIKAWA INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED SIX YEARS AGO IN TOKYO?

HELP ME!

.....!!

HO HO HO HO!

HOW UNSIGHTLY!

NO!

STOP!

BSH

BSH

SHOO

SHOOM

KOBE WASN'T ANY DIFFERENT.

EVEN BEFORE THE WAR THERE WERE MANY MATERNITY HOSPITALS THAT WERE AFTER MONEY.

SHE WAS A GOOD SOURCE OF MONEY FOR THAT SCUM.

AS A VOLUNTEER, FUJIMIYA TATSU MADE MANY DONATIONS TO SUCH HOSPITALS.

"I COULD MAKE BETTER USE OF HER FORTUNE."

SO HE PROBABLY THOUGHT SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF.

AS A COP, JINBAUE KNEW THE REAL STATE OF AFFAIRS.

FUTUREWORLD SCANS

I ALSO FOUND A BOOK RELATED TO MANAGEMENT IN HIS ROOM.

IT SEEMS HE WAS LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO OPEN AN ORPHANAGE.

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT HE DID IT ALL FOR AN ORPHANAGE?

...THAT BECAME HIS EXCUSE FOR CONTINUING TO MURDER ALL THOSE PEOPLE...

THEN, ONE DAY, HE LOST BOTH HIS MIND AND SOUL AND BECAME A MONSTER.

GRAB
OOOOH!

BAM

OOO
OOO

RAA
AAA
A!!

BAM

BAM

THUD.

GAH!

HAAH

HUFF

HAAH

HUFF

HUFF

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO SO.

FINISH HIM OFF THIS TIME.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

YOU DID IT ONCE BEFORE.

WHAT'S

I WILL NEVER...

KILL ANYONE AGAIN.

"IF HE LIVES,"

"THEN I WON'T BE A MURDERER."

IS THAT YOUR LOGIC?

NO.

IT'S NOT AS IF I STOPPED RESENTING HIM.

I BECAME A MURDERER. I WON'T MAKE ANY EXCUSES FOR THAT.

BACK THEN, WHEN I SHOT HIM,

FUTUREWORLD SCANS

NOR AM I TRYING TO SAY IT'S BECAUSE I HATE MURDER.

IT'S NOT BECAUSE I THINK THAT LETTING HIM LIVE LIKE THIS WOULD BE A PUNISHMENT.

I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE TO JUDGE HIM.

IT'S BECAUSE NO MATTER WHO IT IS,

WHETHER OR NOT SOMEONE IS WORTH LETTING LIVE.

I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE TO DECIDE

AKIRA

AND I...

CHOSE THIS KIND OF LIFE.

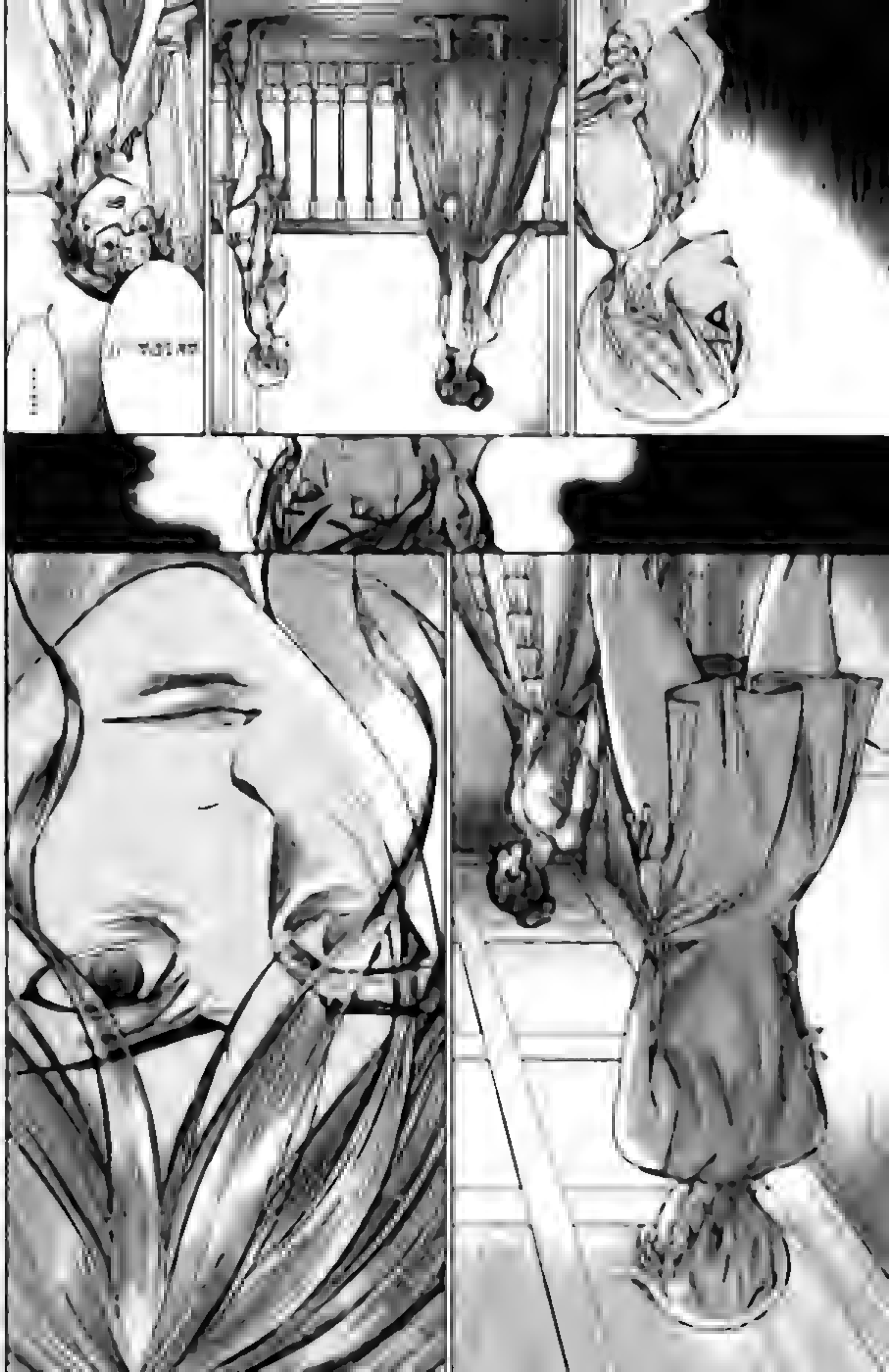
THE TWO OF US WEREN'T CONNECTED

JUST BECAUSE I ACCEPTED HER AS A MAN

IF YOU WANT TO RAPE ME, THEN DO IT.

THAT WILL DESTROY

ABSO-LUTELY NOTHING.



I FINALLY FOUND YOUR WEAKNESS.

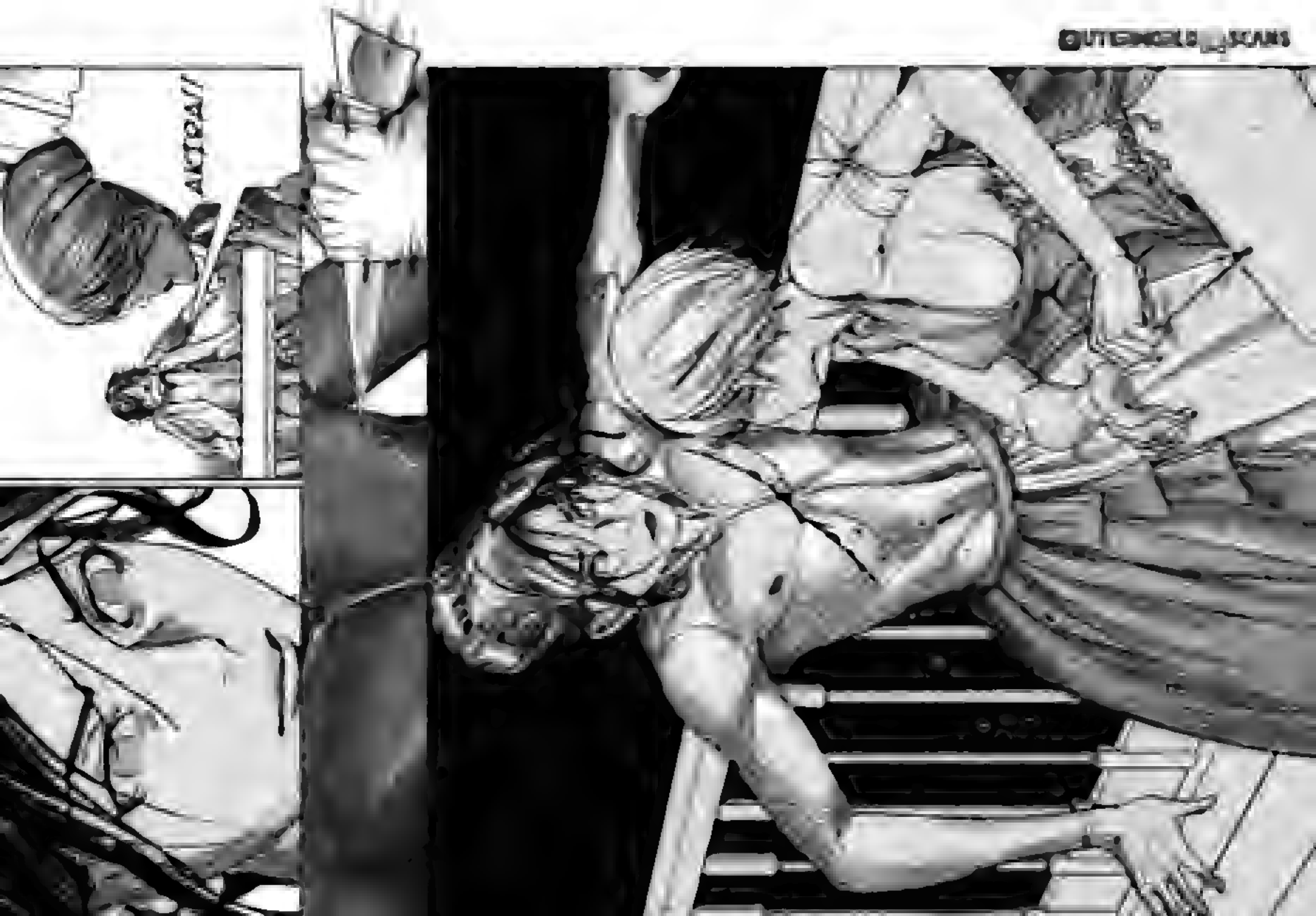
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO REQUESTED HIS TREATMENT WEREN'T YOU...?

UNLESS HE LOVED SOMEONE.

BUT YOU WERE THE TYPE WHO COULDN'T LIVE...

AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU COULD ONLY LOVE YOURSELF,

OUTERGODS SCANS



AND ME.

SATOKO-SAN,

ONATSU,

IT'S BECAUSE ALL OF US LEFT.

YEAH.

.....

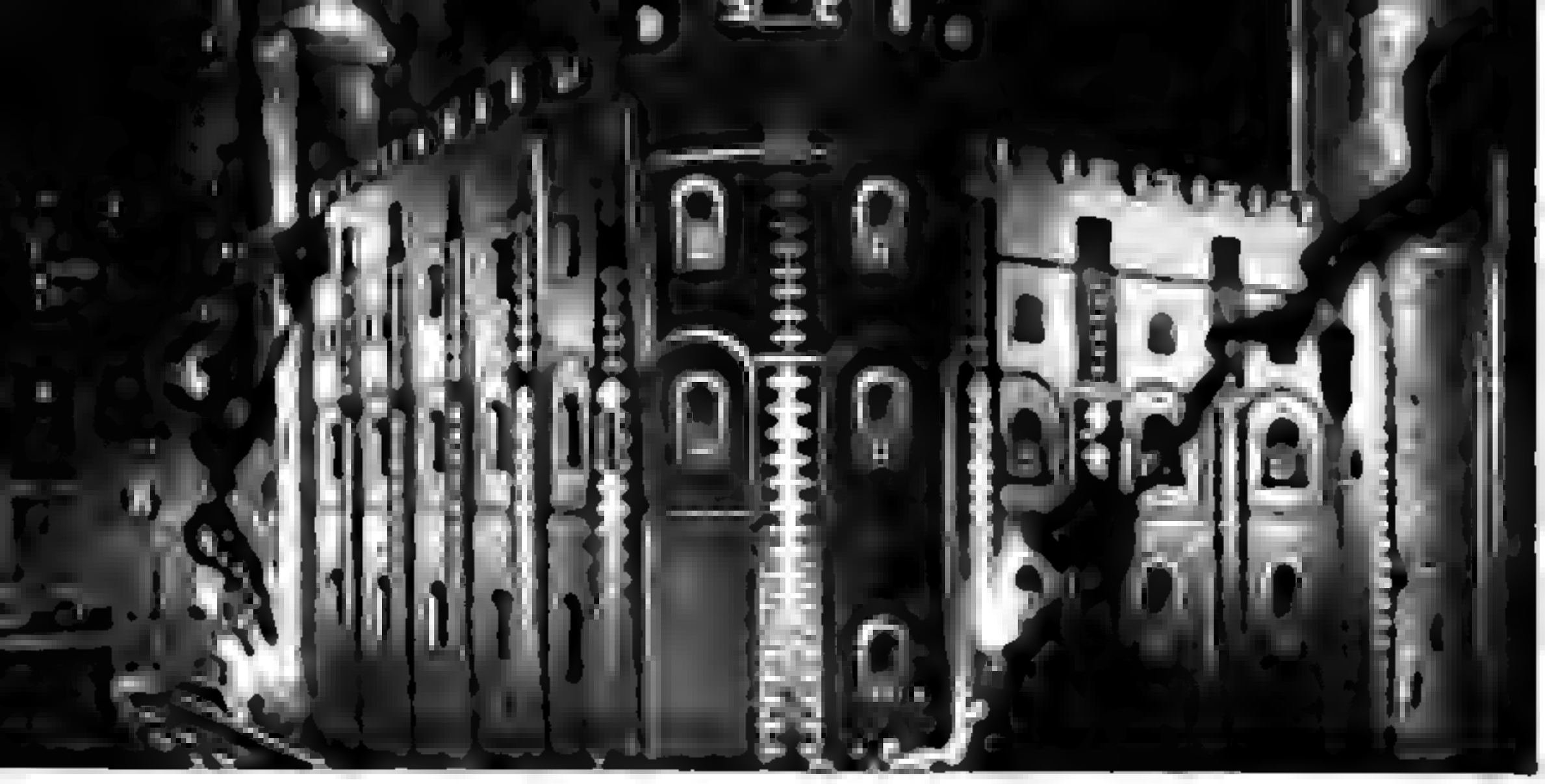
IT'S BECAUSE

YOU'LL BE LONELY FROM NOW ON.

THAT WOUND...

WILL PROBABLY REMAIN FOREVER.

DON'T FORGET.
FATHER.



HAVE TO THANK YOU.

THAT CIRCLE YOU LEFT AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME

YOU MADE IT LOOK LIKE THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED BY ONATSU, SO THAT I WOULD HIDE THE EVIDENCE.

EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS A FAKE.

I HELD OUT HOPE THAT MAYBE, MAYBE SHE WAS STILL ALIVE.

IT MADE MY HEART SKIP A BEAT.

DOUKUROU-KUN

STOP IT,

BUT NOW YOU'LL BE THE FIRST PERSON I KILL.

OF NEVER DIRTYING MY HANDS,

I LIVED PURELY, WITH THE INTENT...

I WON'T DO THE BRAIN TRANSPLANT SURGERY EITHER.

IF YOU KILL A PERSON, THEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY WITH YOU.

...ONATSU!

..ONATSU...

GUTENWORLD SCANS

STOP!

PO

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Chapter 79: Ruins

!!

AMANO-SAN, TETSUO-SAN!

SATOKO-SAN, IT'S US!!

DON'T SHOOT!!

ARE THERE WAITING FOR BRAIN TRANSPLANTS"

ALL THOSE WHO SUFFERED SEVERE BURNS OR LOST THEIR LIMBS IN THE WAR.

THE HOSPITAL WING CAUGHT ON FIRE SO THEY WENT TO HELP THE PATIENTS...

WHERE'RE THE REST OF THE GUARDS?"

SOME OF THEM ARE EVEN RELATIVES OF THE GUARDS.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!

THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO STAY HERE ANY LONGER.

!

MADLEE!

AH!

GLORCH

WHY?

.....

.....

HE DECIDED TO END IT

HE SAID KILLING A PERSON WAS THE ONE THING HE'D NEVER DO...

...OF CHASING GHOSTS.

HIS LONG JOURNEY...

AND "Q"!!

TESLA!

WHAT'S THAT?

THOSE TWO PLAN ON ABANDONING THIS PLACE...!!

LET THEM BE.

JUST HURRY AND GET US OUT OF HERE.

HERE WE GO!!

VROOM

IT'S FOSKY

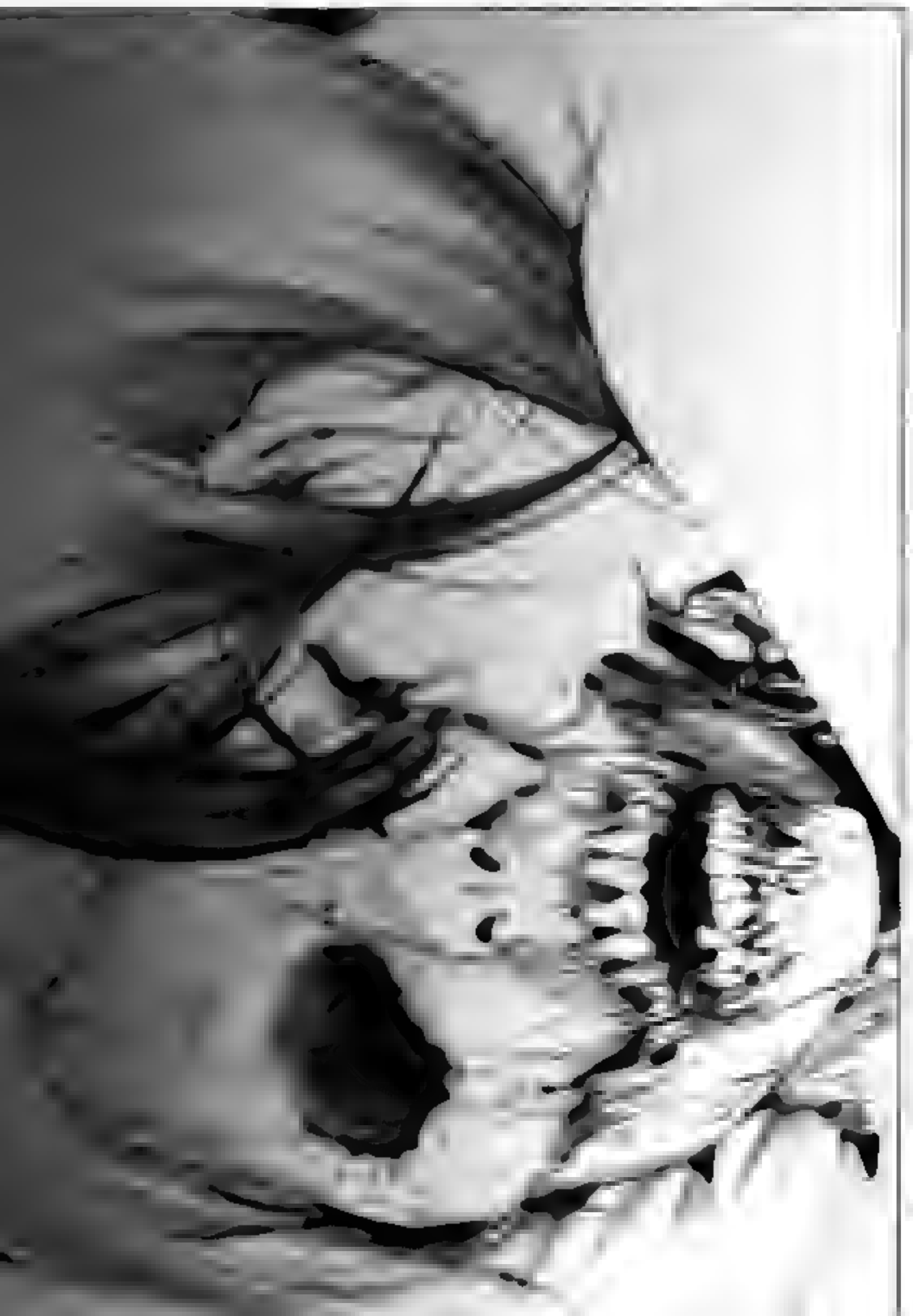
...HUH?

SLEEP
NOW A
WHILE.

I'll...

SLEEP.

JTESHOUD



GASHA
I'M COMING IN!

THAT WAS THE LAST TIME...
...WE EVER SAW MARUBE.

TUNK

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE BORED, SO I BROUGHT YOU A BUNCH OF MYSTERY NOVELS.

AH, SATOKO-SAN!

I'VE ALREADY READ MOST OF THOSE...

.....

YEAH.

I'M SO GLAD!!

OH, IT SEEMS LIKE HANAZONO-SAN'S MOTHER'S SURGERY WAS A SUCCESS!!

AT LEAST SOME-THING GOOD HAPPENED...

I'VE FINISHED READING ALL OF HIS WORKS ALREADY...

RUIKOU, HUH ..

THE POLICE SEARCHED ALL OVER THE MOUNTAIN...

RUIKOU WROTE SOMETHING LIKE THIS ?

"THE GHOST TOWER" ...?

IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE WE ESCAPED FROM THE GHOST TOWER.

BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND THE GHOST TOWER

IT SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED...

IT'S AS IF

AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANTED THAT TO BE RECOVERED, BUT...

YAMASHINA-SAN'S BODY SHOULD'VE BEEN SOMEWHERE IN THERE, WAITING TO BE USED IN A BRAIN TRANSPLANT SURGERY.

ACCORD-ING TO AKIRA,

SATOKO-SAN, CALL AKIRA!!

AKIRA!!

OKAY!

MUSHI!!

IT WAS PUBLISHED IN 1899

AKIRA, DO YOU KNOW RUIKOU'S "THE GHOST TOWER"?

HE WROTE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

I DON'T KNOW OF IT.

BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF "THE GHOST TOWER"

I'VE READ ALL HIS WORKS, FROM "MUZAN" TO "THE WHITE-HAIRED DEMON."

HERE IT IS.

AND YET...

MARUBE DOUKUROU.

AND IT'S NOT JUST THAT THE MAIN CHARACTER'S NAME IS

TAKEN THE NAME FROM THAT NOVEL?

COULDN'T HE HAVE JUST...

IN AN OLD BOOKSTORE...

IT WAS ON DISPLAY

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT BOOK?

WADA ONATSU AND SATOKO-SAN'S NAMES ALSO APPEAR.

1

OTAKUWORLD SCANS

.....

ANYWAY, I'LL SPEND IT TO THE END.

THIS

.....

IS A LOVE STORY.

WHO FALLS IN LOVE WITH A GREY WOMAN AND GOES ON AN ADVENTURE.

A STORY ABOUT A YOUNG MAN NAMED MASUDA DOUKOUDOU

IT'S A WONDERFUL NOVEL.

BUT IT HAS A HAPPY ENDING

IT'S GOT SUSPENSEFUL AND TOUCHING SCENES IN IT

MIGHT'VE BEEN THE STORY, THAT MARUBE-SAN WISHED FOR.

THIS...

THE MAIN CHARACTERS LOSE THEIR CHARM.

ONCE THE STORY ENDS, AND THEY OBTAIN LOVE,

I STILL THINK THAT ETERNAL LOVE IS SOMETHING THAT BECOMES DULL.

HEHEHE-
SAD...

BUT WHEN I TALKED TO MY MYSTERY BUDDIES ON THE PHONE, THEY ALL SAID HE DID...

I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF...

RANYO DID?

HE WROTE "THE GHOST TOWER?"

RANYO

ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE WRITTEN "THE GHOST TOWER"

EVEN SAIJOU YASO WROTE AN ADAPTION TITLED "THE GHOST'S TOWER".

THIS IS GIVING ME A HEAD-ACHE.

RANYO

.....

SOMEONE ELSE

THE TITLE AND THE NAMES WILL BE DIFFERENT.

IT WILL BECOME A NEW STORY.

...WILL DEFINITELY WRITE ANOTHER ONE.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE REBORN OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

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Final Chapter:
The Tower of Reality

PRESIDENT, I NEED YOUR SIGNATURE HERE.

PRESIDENT, WILL THIS BUDGET DO?

PRESIDENT, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE NAME OF OUR NEW [illegible]!

PRESI-DENT,

THE MEETING STARTS IN TEN MINUTES

PRESI-DENT!

[illegible]!

BANG BANG

...WHAT'S NEXT?

YES!

ALSO, RICH PEOPLE LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH OTHER RICH PEOPLE.

IF YOU DON'T GET INTEGRATED INTO THAT SOCIETY, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY CREDI-BILITY.

IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL LEARN WHAT SOCIETY IS LIKE AND YOU WON'T BE WASTING YOUR MONEY.

YOU SHOULD START WITH A SMALL COMPANY AND LEARN THE BASICS OF MANAGEMENT!

...SATOKO-SAN WAS RIGHT...

YOU MEET WITH THE PRINTING INDUSTRY IN THE AFTER-NOON, AND...

IT WAS PRETTY HELPFUL...

SHE LEARNED ALL THAT BY OBSERVING MARUBE-SAN.

TAICHI, THIS MIGHT BE YOUR CHANCE. KUKUKU.

SEEMS LIKE SHE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT BEING FED UP WITH HANDSOME MEN, TOO.

SATOKO-SAN COMES TO VISIT OFTEN, HUH?

AM.

APPARENTLY THE WESTERN CLOTHING STORE SHE OPENED IS VERY SUCCESSFUL...

REDO THIS SEAM!!

SATOKO-SAN HAS A GREAT TALENT FOR BUSINESS...

AKIRA.

...SINCE YOU DISAPPEARED.

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS...

YOU'VE BECOME A SPLENDID YOUNG BUSINESSMAN.

YOU CAN GO HOME FOR THE DAY.

TO THINK THE PRESIDENT WOULD COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE!!

OH, THIS IS A SURPRISE.

OUTERWORLD SCANS

AND DON'T WANT TO SHOW THAT FACE TO ANYONE, I COME HERE...

WHEN EVER I'M TIRED,

HEY, TAICHI!

SORRY.

...AH.

BTUNK

Dear Taichi,

Congratulations!
It seems like your spring has finally come.
Enjoy yourself to your heart's content!

I also plan on searching for that special someone
I'll write to you again
Stay well

Akira

ALL HE LEFT WAS A LETTER.

AKIRA DISAP-PEARED.

AND THEN,

EVEN WITHOUT KNOWING THAT, AKIRA CONTINUED SENDING ME LETTERS EVERY SEASON.

SHE WAS ONLY WITH ME FOR THE MONEY

IN THE END, THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT WITH MY EX-GIRLFRIEND

AND THE LETTERS HE SENT WERE ALWAYS FROM A DIFFERENT PLACE

HE NEVER GAVE ME A RETURN ADDRESS,

I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN

..AKIRA,

THIS IS A SECRET YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE,

...TAICHI.

WAIT. WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME!?

W-WHY ARE YOU HERE!?

WHY YOU...

YOUR CRYING FACE LOOKS TERRIBLE.

IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY (STEP) MOTHER'S DEATH.

BECAUSE TODAY...

I MET ABOUT SIX PEOPLE BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT WITH ANY OF THEM.

AHHH... LUCKILY NO #000

YOU KNEW...? HOW?

AND NOW WE'VE THINGS ON HOW END!

I KNEW IT WOULDN'T WORK OUT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND.

AH

I SEE.

I PLAN ON TRANSFERRING MY COMPANY TO TOKYO.

TRUTH IS,

I'M GLAD I MET YOU HERE.

YOU'RE LEAVING KOBE?

I'VE GAINED A LOT OF NEW EXPERIENCES, AND BUILT UP SOME CONFIDENCE.

I HAVE TO FIGHT THE REAL BATTLE IN TOKYO.

AND HE SAW THAT MAN IN UENO.

LAST YEAR YAGOBEE-SAN WENT TO TOKYO ON HIS HONEYMOON...

BESIDES, THERE'S ONE MORE REASON FOR IT.

WHAT?

I SEE.

HE SAW YAMA-SHINA-SAN.

...YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

IT MUST'VE BEEN A DIFFERENT PERSON, THAT GUY HAD NO ARTISTIC SENSE.

HE DIDN'T SEEM TO RECOGNIZE YAGOBEE-SAN, EITHER.

BLENDING IN WITH THE VAGRANTS, HE WAS PAINTING A PICTURE OF A PRETTY YOUNG BOY.

HE SAID THE MAN LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

AND BECAME A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PERSON.

THAT SINCE HE GOT SHOT IN THE HEAD, HE FORGOT A BUNCH OF THINGS,

IT'S POS-SIBLE...

HE WENT TO GO CHECK ON THE GUY THE NEXT DAY, BUT HE WAS ALREADY GONE.

I WANT TO LOOK FOR HIM IN TOKYO.

EVEN SO, IF HE'S STILL ALIVE,

YOU...

IT'S STILL POSSIBLE FOR THE PERSON TO SURVIVE.

THAT IF THE BULLET DOESN'T GO THROUGH BOTH HEMI-SPHERES,

YOU SEE, THE BRAIN IS SUCH AN ORGAN,

FUTUREWORLD SCANS

IF YOU WERE A GIRL.

IT WOULD BE NICE...

IT'S OKAY, AKIRA.

JUST FOR NOW.

YOU CAN CALL ME TAIKO,

I WANT ONLY YOU

THEN CALL ME TETSUO, TAIKO-CHAN

...TO CALL ME TETSUO.

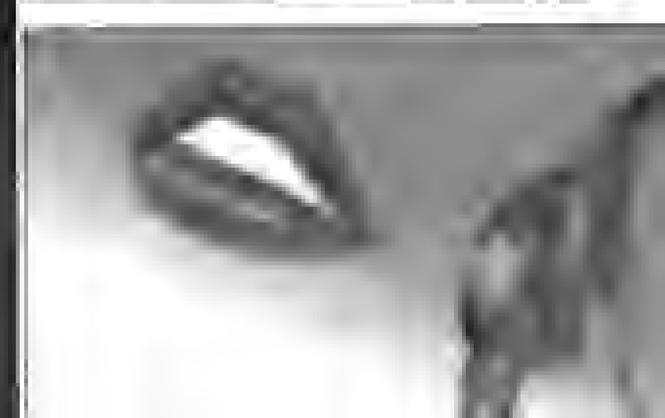
.....

WELL, AREN'T YOU A RUDE ONE?

YOU'RE TOO CREAMY!!

TETSUO-SAN!!

O-DON'T SEDUCE ME LIKE THAT!



THE TALLEST TOWER IN JAPAN WAS COMPLETED.

THE NEXT YEAR,

NOW I COULD SEE ALL OF TOKYO!

FROM THE TOP,

BOOKS: FORTY THOUSAND WITNESSES (LEFT), POINTS AND LINES (RIGHT)

A NEW AGE CAME.

THAT'S RIGHT.

ALL THE MYSTERIES ARE GONE.

THERE ARE NO MORE MYSTERIOUS PEOPLE LURKING IN THE SHADOWS.

NEWSPAPER HEADING: 1964 TOKYO OLYMPICS

IT'S SO TALL.

Haah

THIS TOWER, TOO, WILL FALL INTO RUIN, AND ANOTHER ONE WILL BE BUILT IN ITS PLACE.

ONE DAY,

BUT I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE,

PEOPLE LIKE THE TWO OF US, WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE MORE FREELY.

THAT WHEN THAT TIME COMES,

The Ghost Tower: The End.

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